

In Fiscal Year 1996, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms began to implement new strategies for reducing violent crime, collecting revenue, and protecting the public. The men and women of ATF turned the concepts embodied in our strategic plan into actions that are already producing dividends. Earlier headquarters restructuring that placed greater emphasis on training, scientific and information technology, internal review, financial management, and the integration of criminal and regulatory enforcement offices provided a sound platform for success. Through reinvention and innovation, ATF employees have achieved greater efficiency and effectiveness in nearly every program area.

This, our second Annual Report, reflects our accomplishments in the uniquely interwoven activities of revenue collection and regulatory and criminal enforcement in the areas of firearms, alcohol, tobacco, explosives, and arson. We take great satisfaction in the benefits provided to our customers and to the public. Much of this success is attributable to the collaborative approach we take to solve problems. Our success in investigating crimes has traditionally been built on a partnership with state and local police. More recently, however, we expanded this partnership approach to other areas. From teaming up with industry in a public safety campaign on the potential misuse of ammonium nitrate—to partnering with police officers to equip nearly a quarter of a million children with skills to resist gang involvement—ATF is committed to exploring new avenues to advance public safety. More and more, we are effecting the kinds of partnerships with law enforcement agencies, private industry, and the scientific and technical communities

that offer substantial benefits to the American public.

The dedication and competence that ATF employees exhibited in such cases as the church arson investigations caught the public's attention. Because of our expertise in arson and explosives investigations, ATF is now tasked with establishing a National Repository for all arson and explosives incidents; developing national certification standards for explosives-detecting canines; and conducting a study to explore the practicability of using new technologies to help detect and trace explosives.

Each new challenge strengthens our resolve to develop and implement strategies that will allow us to help secure a sound and safer America. We are confident that our efforts in the past year and our plan for the future represent the best tradition of public service.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John W. Magaw". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John W. Magaw
Director